

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

SECRET
(CONTROL)

Memo: PIRA-414

27 March 1947

TO : Washington

FROM : Rome

SUBJECT : Additional Information on Ferenc VAJTA

SOURCE : JK29 and AE754

EVALUATION: B-2

REFERENCE : PIRA-229

MICROFILMED
FEB 28 1963
DOC. MICRO. SER.

1. (From AE754) Ferenc VAJTA is very active among the Hungarians in Rome and he is enjoying great popularity, since he has promised the Hungarian refugees assistance in their search for a new homeland. He has influential French contacts, and he arranged a trip to Paris for Father Joseph GALLOW, a Hungarian priest in charge of Hungarian refugees in Rome. Allegedly, the purpose of the trip was to obtain entry permits to France for a large group of Hungarian refugees in Italy. VAJTA has established favorable contacts with the Vatican through Monsignor Ferenc LUTTOR and Father Tibor GALLUS. For LUTTOR he managed to obtain entry visas to Argentina and Canada. LUTTOR will investigate the possibilities of settling Hungarians in those countries.
2. In February, 1947, VAJTA made a trip to Capri, where he desired to meet Miklos KALLAI, the former Hungarian Premier. KALLAI left Capri the day before, in order to avoid meeting VAJTA, whom he detests. Eristof, KALLAI, the ex-Premier's son, said that VAJTA returned to Rome without seeing his father.
3. VAJTA is reported to also have good Italian contacts. He made the statement that if any Hungarian refugees experienced difficulty in obtaining permits to remain in Italy, he was prepared to intervene and assist them through his influential Italian friends.
4. When he returned from Paris with Father GALLOW, VAJTA went to see Source to attempt to justify his activities in Hungary, stating that he was only fighting Bolshevism. Source believes that VAJTA is too discredited to play any future role in Hungarian political life.
5. (From JK29) When Source was requested to obtain information on VAJTA's activities, he commissioned one of his men, who is employed in VAJTA's plant (manufacturing tiles) to check on his movements. He informed Source that VAJTA's business partners are Felix FOGHANYI-NAGY, former State Secretary under SZALASI and Laszlo SILVER.
6. Source occasionally visits Baron Gabor APOR. At their recent meeting, he informed APOR of his intention to emigrate to South America. APOR stated it was foolish because the Hungarian refugees in Europe would have an opportunity, in the near future, to return to Hungary and he feared that former Nazis would get the leading positions. APOR indicated that people such as VAJTA were active again, and he hinted that he seemed to have the backing of the Americans.
7. Source also was informed by APOR that VAJTA has contact with certain Hungarian priests in Rome; namely, Father Tibor GALLUS and Monsignor Ferenc LUTTOR. From these priests, Source learned that early in March 1947, they had lunch with VAJTA and two Italians. After lunch, VAJTA and GALLUS met Zolt ARADI at the Colosseum and they left for Ostia where they held a long conference. Source's informers ridiculed him for his inability to make American contacts while VAJTA apparently enjoys their favors. He was also told by them that VAJTA works for the French and also has the backing of the British.

Distribution:

Washington - 100-400, 100-400, 100-400

SECRET

27 Mar 47